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October 1964

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NEW SSM LAUNCH AREA, PLESETSK ICBM COMPLEX, USSR

Declassification review by NIMA/DOD

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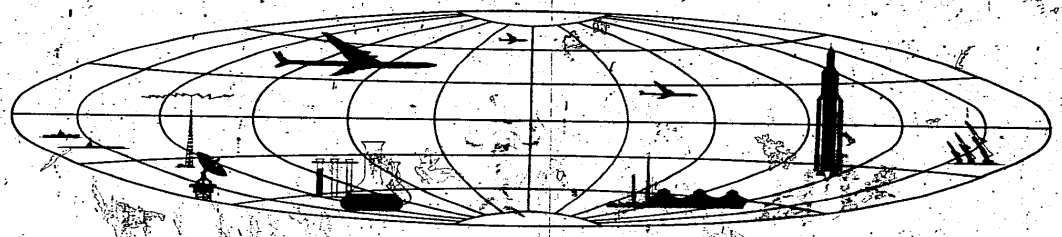

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides general comparative information about a new surface-to-surface missile (SSM) launch area at the Plesetsk ICBM Complex, Launch Site 5G1 at Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (KY/VMTC), and the IRBM launch complex which was established near Guanajay, Cuba. This material is summarized in Table 1.

Detailed information on 15 of the 16 deployed IRBM soft sites is contained in a number of previously published NPIC reports. 1-12/

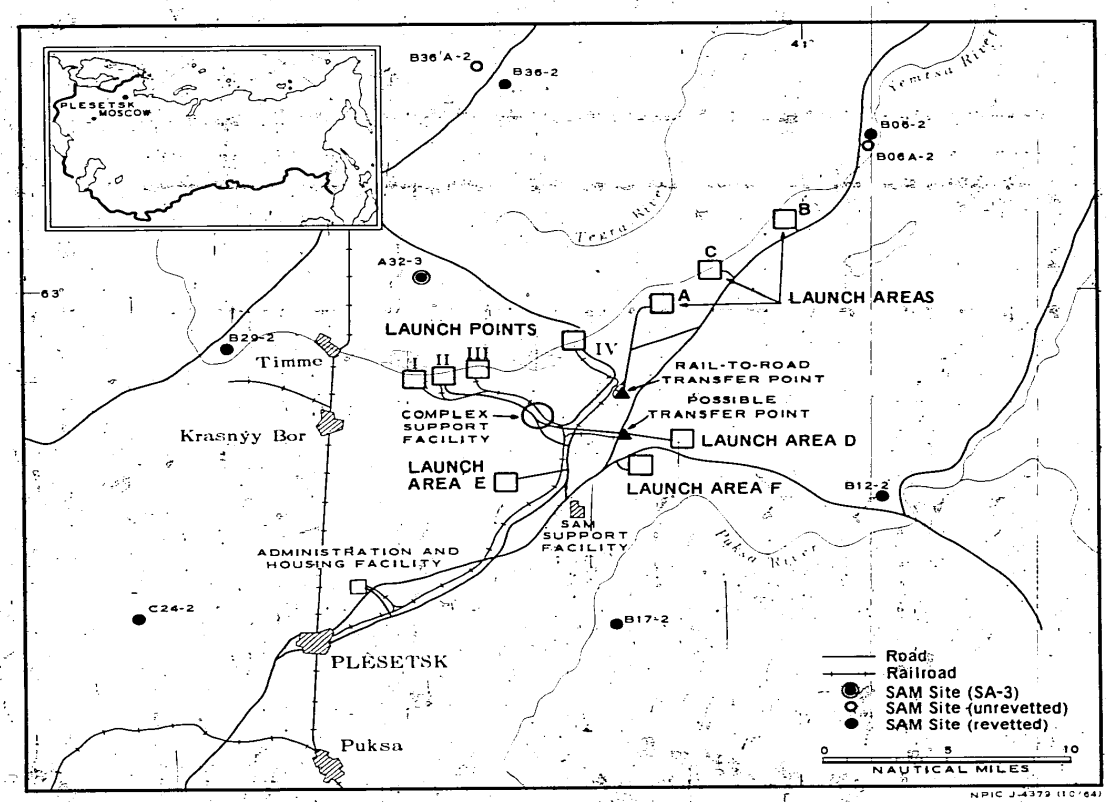

FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF LAUNCH AREA F, PLESETSK

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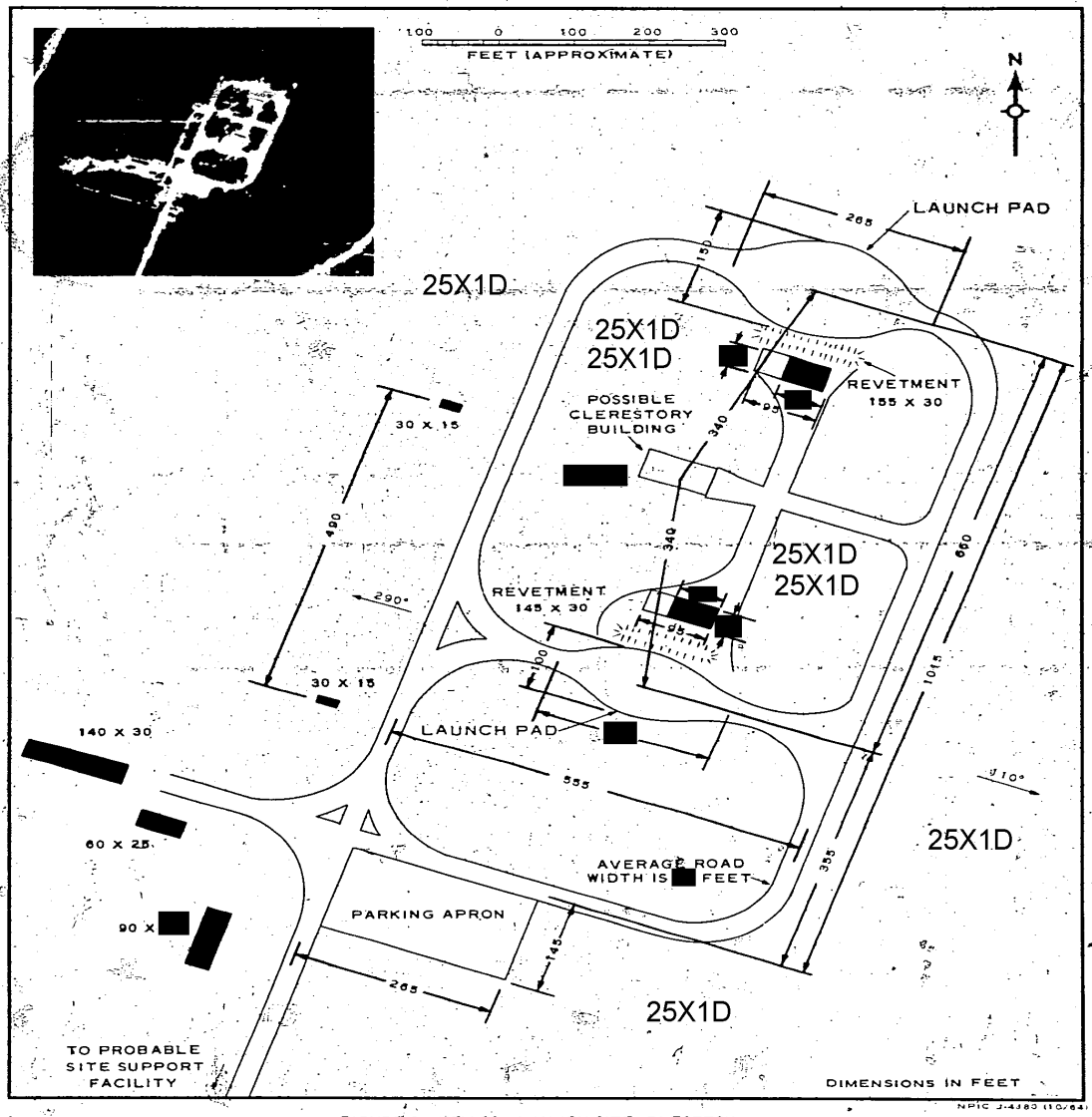

FIGURE 2. NEW SSM LAUNCH SITE, PLESETSK.

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NEW SSM LAUNCH AREA, PLESETSK

The new SSM launch area, situated at 62-52-30N 40-45-45E in the Plesetsk ICBM Complex,* consists of a launch site under construction and a probable site support facility and has been designated as Launch Area F (Figure 1). The area lies in wooded terrain between two roads, 2 nautical miles (nm) west-southwest of Launch Area D, 3.4 nm southeast of the Plesetsk complex support facility, and 16.4 nm northeast of the town of Plesetsk.

25X1D

25X1D

The area was first observed and identified on photography of late [redacted] was covered in early [redacted] but because of cloud cover and haze only some earth scarring was discernible. The latest coverage of the area, in early [redacted] showed no change in the launch site or support facility.

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

The launch site (Figure 2) is enclosed by a single security fence (not shown) and is served by an access road that enters at the southwest corner of the site and then branches to form a large loop. Two launch pads, 660 feet apart from center to center, are unequal in size, unsurfaced, and appear to be still under construction. Inboard of each launch pad is a large earth revetment and a 95- by [redacted]-foot building; the western end of each of these buildings appears to be raised higher than the roof level of the remainder of the building. Situated between the pads and equidistant from the center of each is a building with a possible clerestory. These three buildings are served by a plus-shaped road network. Across the loop road to the west of the launch pads are two small buildings, 490 feet apart. Adjacent to the southwest corner of the site are three buildings and a parking apron.

25X1D

The small probable support facility, situated on the access road 4,490 feet southwest of the center of the launch site, contains three barracks-type buildings, 95 by 30 feet, and three smaller buildings.

25X1D

LAUNCH SITE 5C1, KY/VMTC

Launch Site 5C1, situated at 48-32-40N 46-17-40E in Launch Complex C of KY/VMTC (Figure 3),** has a general overall configuration that resembles the new Plesetsk SSM launch site.

25X1D

25X1D

The site can be negated on photography of [redacted] was in the early stages of construction in [redacted] the midstage in [redacted] and was considered complete in [redacted]

25X1D

25X1D

Enclosed by a double security fence, Launch Site 5C1 contains two equal-sized pads situated on a large loop road (Figure 4). The pad separation is 760 feet, center to center, and each pad measures 355 by 65 feet overall with a center launch position measuring 70 by 65 feet. While under construction in [redacted] the pads measured 290 by 90 feet. A small bunker, 40 by 25 feet, is offset inboard of each launch pad and a 135- by 60-foot control bunker is centrally located 380 feet from the center of each pad. Numerous other bunkers and structures are scattered throughout the launch site. The road width within the site is 30 feet, and the radius of the turns is 150 feet.

The support area of Launch Complex C is 5.5 nm northwest by road.

*Further information on this complex is contained in NPIC R-272/64. 13.

**Further information on this complex is contained in NPIC R-84/63. 14.

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FIGURE 3. LOCATION OF LAUNCH AREA 5C, KY/VMTC.

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25X1D

NPIC J-4382 (15-64)

FIGURE 4. LAUNCH SITE 5C1, KY VMTC.

LAUNCH SITE 1, GUANAJAY

25X1D

The Guanajay IRBM Complex was situated southwest of Havana and consisted of two launch sites.* Launch Site 1, 2.5 nm east-northeast of Guanajay at 22-57-00N 82-39-25W (Figure 5), is considered in this report because it was the site nearest completion when abandoned.

25X1D

Construction of the site was started in [redacted] and progressed rapidly until [redacted] when the site was observed in the process of being destroyed and abandoned.**

25X1D

The launch site (Figure 6) consisted of four launch pads arranged in two offset pairs, each pad measuring 300 by 100 feet overall when under construction and later having a [redacted]-foot-wide, hexagonally shaped concrete launch

*Further information on this complex is contained in MIS [redacted] 15/

**Details on construction chronology are contained in NPIC/R-1449/63. 16/

25X1D

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25X1D 25X1D

position. The approximate pad separation at each pair, center to center, was 640[redacted] feet. Centrally located between each pair of pads was a 40- by [redacted]-foot control building which was connected to each pad by a small conduit that ended at a retaining wall abutting the inboard side of the pad. From the retaining wall, a large conduit extended to a terminal room beneath the pad. A launch ring with an opening in its center was positioned on the pad above the terminal room.

Because the site was never completed, a normal site support facility was not established and support for the site came from the immediately adjacent construction support tent area.

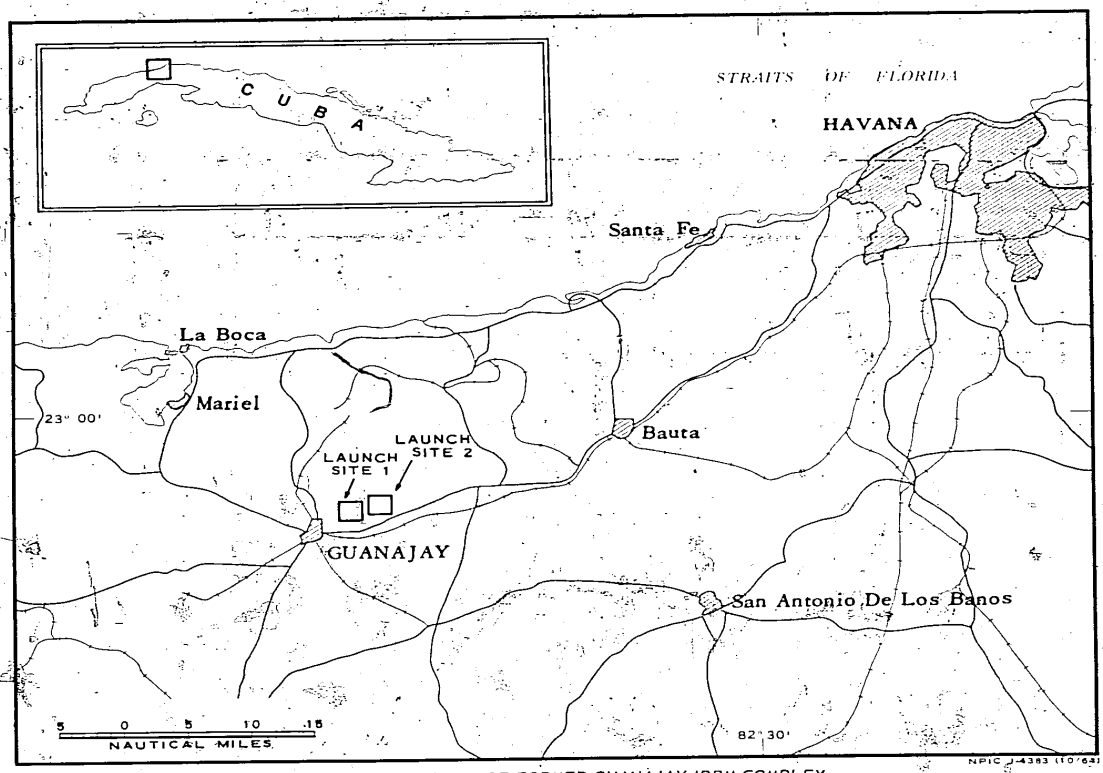

FIGURE 5. LOCATION OF FORMER GUANAJAY IRBM COMPLEX.

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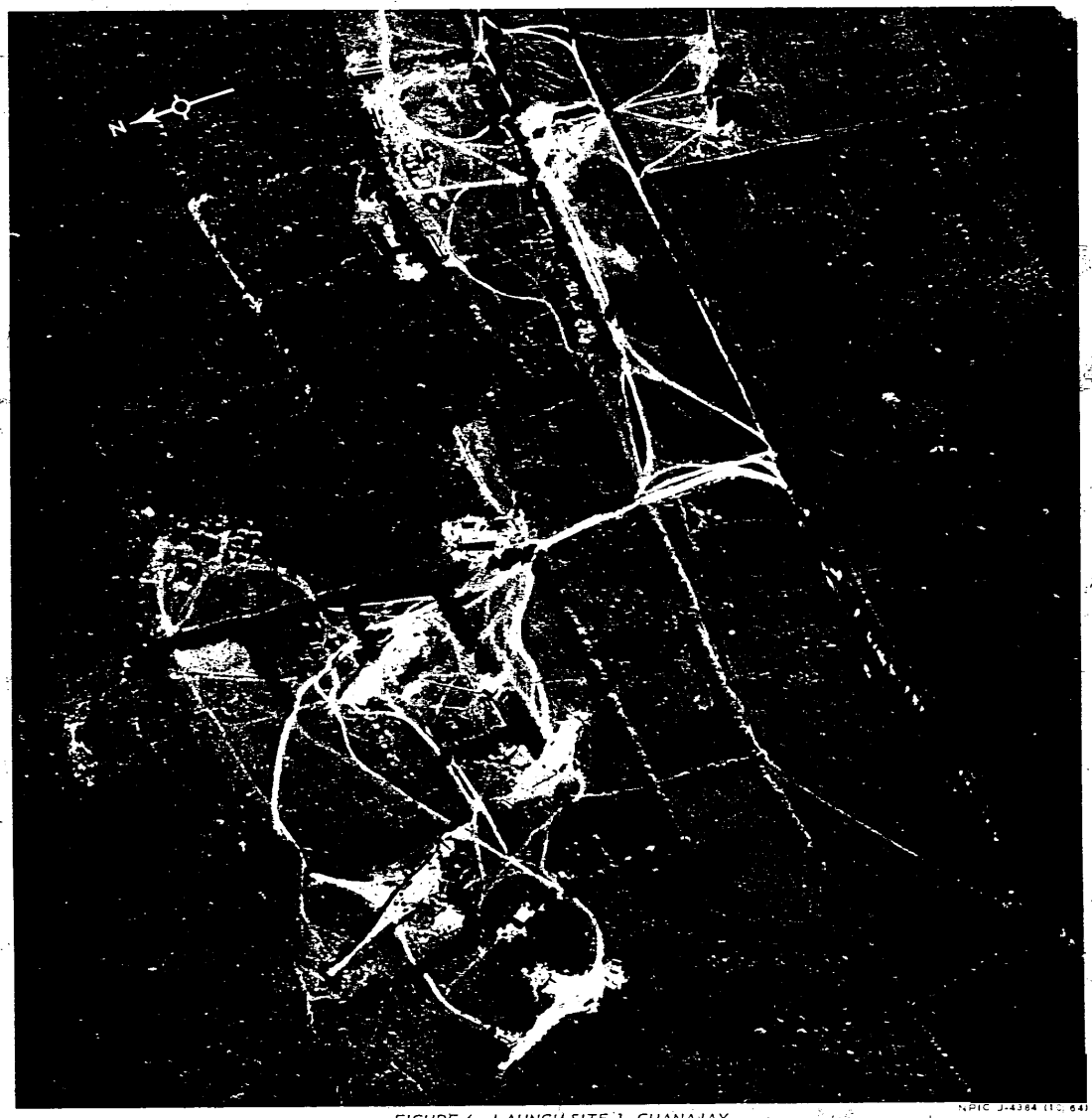

NPIC J-4384 (10, 64)

FIGURE 6. LAUNCH SITE 1, GUANAJAY.

25X1D

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Table 1. Comparative Data on Launch Facilities Under Discussion

Facility	General Layout	Pad Separation (ft)	Pad Dimensions (ft)	Pad Orientation (degrees)	Trenching Ditching Cabling	Construction Timing	Support Facility	Possible Targets
Launch Area F, Plesetsk ICBM Complex	Two pads on large loop road with building inboard of each pad and third building centered between the pads	660	265 x 150 [redacted] 25X1D	110-290	None discernible	[redacted]	4,990 feet SW of center of launch site	Within 2,000 nm: Thule, Greenland; most of Europe and British Isles; Cairo, Egypt; Suez Canal
Launch Site 5C1, KY VMTC	Two pads on large loop road with small offset bunker inboard of each pad and control bunker centered between pads	760	Overall: 355 x 65; launch position: 70 x 65 25X1D	95 ± 5	Ditching runs from a control center between Launch Sites 5C1 and 5C2 to control bunker between pads at 5C1		5.5 nm by road to Launch Complex C support area	1,050 nm: Sary-Shagan; 2,000 nm: Bratsk
Launch Site 1, Guanajay IRBM Complex	Two pairs of pads, offset, with control building centered between each pair	640 [redacted] (each pair)	Overall: 300 x 100; when used: concrete launch position, hexagonally shaped: [redacted] 25X1D	35 ± 5	Conduit runs from control building to each launch pad	25X1D	Construction support area approximately 3,000 feet SE of launch site	Within 2,200 nm: nearly all US; parts of Canada; all Mexico; NW part of South America

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REFERENCES

25X1D

PHOTOGRAPHY

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25X1D

15. MIS. 26-63, *SS-5 Ballistic Missile System (G)*, Jun 63 (SECRET Noforn [redacted]

25X1C

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REQUIREMENTS

25X1C

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NPIC PROJECT

N-887/64

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